

Parking Access and Transportation Strategy

Second Interim Report by Councillor Philip Allnatt Parking Access and Transportation Champion

1. The purpose of this second interim report is to update members on progress towards completing the strategy, other related actions and to enable the Executive to consider and agree whether or not to renew the “temporary notice” for parking charges implemented in December 2005, for a period to the end of March 2006.
2. The first interim report considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Executive in February, prior to budget setting by Council, was mainly concerned with any possible implications for the 2006/07 budget arising from the emerging recommendations of the draft Parking Access and Transportation Strategy report.
3. The draft Parking Access and Transportation Strategy report will be submitted to the March meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for comment before submission to the Executive in April.
4. However, before then there is a legal requirement to renew (or otherwise) the current temporary notice.
5. The first interim report stated that; “The final report will not recommend substantial changes to the structure and rates for parking charges in advance of Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement (DPE), due in September 2006.”
6. The first interim report stated that; “Partly as preparation for the consequences of DPE, partly as a response to public interest, and partly following advice from County Council officers, the Council Leader has agreed that the Spring edition of “Improving North Wiltshire” will carry a substantial consultation on “residents’ parking schemes”. Of itself there is no significant budgetary implications for 2006/07 but such schemes are part of the longer term PAT strategy.”
7. The County Council is now preparing (possibly started) to refresh existing traffic order signage and lining in readiness for DPE.
8. The emerging draft report contains a recommendation to budget for a full review (possibly by external consultants) after this period of turbulence and when the Council has accumulated financial and statistical data over a reasonable period. Members will recall that I, the Section 151 Officer and the Lead Corporate Management Board member have pointed out the difficulty of predicting the marginal income for budgetary purposes.
9. **It is therefore strongly RECOMMENDED that the current temporary notice is extended to the end of September 2007 i.e. twelve months after the implementation of DPE. (with certain exceptions below).**
10. Of course, because it would be a further temporary notice it would be possible to vary that in extremis, for example in the 2007/08 budget.

11. **It is RECOMMENDED that one variation is permitted i.e. that the charges at Dunns Lane Castle Combe be suspended until the end of September 2006.**
12. **Reasons for recommendation.** Two parish council representatives and the local district member have no principled objections to charges but they have a concern that their implementation in advance of adequate supervision with DPE, is having the effect of displacing vehicles “down the hill and into the village centre. This appears to be exacerbating other parking issues in the village centre.

Income at Dunns Lane from September to February has been £2621.90p. There is a cost of collection and so on. This car park is relatively “remote”. It would be an option to merely suspend charges in respect of PSV coaches but it is suggested that this approach might be too confusing and not make any savings on collection.
13. The emerging draft report contains a recommendation that consideration is given early in the FY2006/07, to the idea of permitting an element of local choice with respect to charges for the first hour of parking. Implementation would be in FY2007/08. The Executive is asked merely to note this at this stage insofar as it would be a change to the recommendation in paragraph 9 above.
14. The first interim report mentioned the delay in implementing new charges at the “on street” car park Cross Hayes Malmesbury because of legal reasons. Although the legal reasons have not been resolved and are not likely to be resolved for some time the County Council has now answered my letter of the 2nd November 2005 and the new charges will now be implemented. Total annual income yield is predicted to be £48,000. The Malmesbury Town Council will shortly receive a letter of full explanation. The Section 151 Officer has advised me that we should not alter, at this stage, the evaluation of the risk to income from car parking identified in the budget papers before Council in February. However, the County Council’s consultant advisers on DPE (RTA Associates) have been asked to re-run the financial model in the light of these changes.
15. I have asked for a full financial and statistical analysis of car parking for the period from December to the end of March in order that this information and any further comments are available when the Executive Committee considers the final Parking Access and Transportation Strategy report in April.
16. I have lately received additional proposals from the Chambers of Commerce with respect to parking provision in towns for low paid employees. I am considering these and will report them in the draft report to Overview and Scrutiny in March.
17. Preparation for the major public consultation on residents’ parking schemes has been completed and will be distributed in the next edition of “*Improving North Wiltshire*”.